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Abstract of the "Statistics of Crime in England and Wales, from 1839 to 1843." By The Rev. WHITWORTH RUSSELL.

[Read before the Statistical Society of London, 24th November and 22nd December, 1845.]

By an examination of the following tables, it will be found that, in the quinquennial period under consideration, a considerable increase has taken place both in the number of assize and sessions prisoners, and of those under summary convictions.

The increase of assize and sessions prisoners in England and Wales, has been	13·5 per cent.
That of summary convictions.....	20·8 ,,
The total increase upon the two classes	34·3 ,,

The year 1842 exhibits the greatest amount of increase, namely :—

In assize and sessions prisoners.....	13·5 per cent.
In summary convictions	9·9 ,,
Total increase in that one year	23·4 ,,

Whereas in the following year, 1843, there is a decrease of 5·7 per cent. in assize and sessions prisoners, and only an increase of 2·4 per cent. in the summary convictions, giving a total of decrease of 3·3 per cent.

I am strongly of opinion that the great increase of crime in 1842 may fairly and mainly be attributed to the general distress, commercial, manufacturing, and agricultural, which prevailed throughout the country during that year; and that the decrease in 1843 was caused by returning prosperity in all those interests in that year. I am confirmed in this opinion by the fact, that the check which was given to crime in 1843 was still more decidedly felt in 1844 and 1845.

	Assizes and Sessions.	Summary Convictions.	Total.
The decrease in 1844 was.....	13·5 per cent.	4·0 per cent.	17·5 per cent.
Ditto 1845	7·9 ,,	9·1	17·0 ,,
Showing a total decrease in the } two years of	21·4	13·1	34·5

The following tables will more clearly exhibit the increase or decrease in the two classes of crime (assize and sessions prisoners and summary convictions) during the quinquennial period under consideration, namely, 1839 to 1843, and in that which includes the two following years, namely, 1841 to 1845.

Increase or Decrease of the Two Classes of Crime between the several years of the Quinquennial Period, 1839-1843.

Locality.		Total Number of Prisoners in each Year.		Proportion per 100,000 of the Total Population.		Total Population.
		Assizes and Sessions.	Summary Convictions.	Assizes and Sessions.	Summary Convictions.	
England and Wales.	1839	24,956	57,455	161·1	371·0	15,492,867
	1840	27,093	63,979	172·6	407·6	15,698,044
	1841	27,085	63,296	170·3	397·9	15,906,741
	1842	31,160	70,507	193·3	437·4	16,118,591
	1843	29,871	73,196	182·9	448·1	16,333,659

Increase or Decrease.

		Years.	Assizes and Sessions.	Summary Convictions.	Total.
England and Wales	{	1842 over 1841....	+ 13·5	+ 9·9	+ 23·4
		1843 „ 1842....	- 5·7	+ 2·4	- 3·3
		1844 „ 1843....	- 13·5	- 4·0	- 17·5
		1845 „ 1844....	- 7·9	- 9·1	- 17·0
	{	1843 over 1841....	+ 7·4	+ 12·6	+ 20·0
		1844 „ „	- 5·6	+ 8·2	+ 2·6
		1845 „ „	- 13·9	- 0·8	- 14·7

A still more satisfactory conclusion, however, may be drawn from these data. The tables cannot show the amount of actual crime, but only of such as has been detected, and become the subject of legal cognizance. Several causes have been in operation which must necessarily have increased the proportion of detected crime to that actually committed. Amongst these the following may be enumerated:—a better organized, more numerous, and more active police; the mitigation of the criminal law, and the consequent increase of prosecutions; an improved prison discipline, and therefore a greater willingness on the part of the public to prefer charges; vast facilities for rapid communication, inevitably leading to a greater amount of detection. These causes must occasion a greater proportion of the committed crime to be detected; and if even detected crime decreases, then it necessarily follows that actual crime must, to a still greater extent, have diminished.

The tables of summary convictions are deserving very serious consideration. Great as is the annual number of commitments under summary convictions, amounting in 1843 to more than 73,000, this does not exhibit the entire amount of this class of detected crime, inasmuch as all those who pay their fines or produce the required sureties, are discharged at the time, and are not entered in any criminal return. These, who are really convicted offenders, would, no doubt, if their numbers could be ascertained, greatly swell the total of summary convictions.

It is further to be borne in mind that no estimate can be formed of the proportion which the acquitted bear to the convicted under the summary jurisdiction of magistrates. No return of any kind is made by justices of the number or nature of the cases dismissed by them, either when administering justice at their own houses, or when acting in petty sessions. This, under many points of view, and for many reasons which might be assigned, is a most important omission. I venture to submit, that much good would result if a return was required to be made by the magistrates to the Home Office, about once a month, showing the number and nature of the charges brought before them, the numbers committed and discharged, together with a copy of each commitment, bearing upon the face of it the statute and section under which the commitment is made. Such a requirement would secure increased care and accuracy in conducting this branch of magisterial duty, and would bring together a body of important facts with reference to large classes of crime, respecting which little or nothing is known at present.

Much interesting information will be found in the tables which show the result of proceedings at assizes and sessions. The different counties of England furnish materials for very important investigations on the comparisons between alleged and proved criminality. The proportion of convictions and acquittals varies very greatly in the several counties; for instance, the proportion of the convicted to the committed prisoners, in 1839, rose in certain districts over others at a rate of no less than 79·1 per cent., and in 1843 to 43·4 per cent.; while the acquitted to the committed show the enormous difference of 486 per cent. in 1839, and of 156 per cent. in 1843, those counties being selected which show the extreme variations. In fact, the variations will be observed to be so great, and the increases and decreases so fluctuating, that they need no comment. They manifest serious defects in the existing system, and are deserving of a close investigation.

On reference to the tables which exhibit the terms of imprisonment before trial, it will be seen that they extend, in many instances, to considerable periods. It cannot be denied, that a long term of imprisonment before trial is an evil of no common magnitude, and should be diminished in every possible manner. On the other hand the extremely short terms of imprisonment under summary convictions (89·2 per cent. being under three months) are anything but calculated to repress crime, and to deter the prisoner committed for a first offence from pursuing the fatal career upon which he has unhappily entered.

Convictions under the Game Laws have augmented in a degree beyond all other crimes, during the quinquennial period to which the tables refer. The increase from year to year has been continual throughout the period; and from 1839 to 1843, it has amounted to 67·4 per cent.

In the last two years, however, Game Law convictions have decreased in a manner even more remarkable than their previous increase. Whilst in 1843, over 1842, there was an increase of + 18·2 per cent., in 1844, over 1843, there was a decrease of — 21·1 per cent.; and again, in 1845, over 1844, a further decrease of — 31·6. The following tables will exhibit this more clearly:—

Game Law Convictions.

Locality.		Number of Prisoners in each Year of the Quinquennial Period.	Proportion per 100,000 of Total Male Population.	Total Male Population.
England and Wales.	1841....	2,862	36·8	7,771,094
	1842....	3,631	46·1	7,874,836
	1843....	4,348	54·5	7,980,219
	1844....	3,638	45·0	8,086,754
	1845....	2,800	34·2	8,194,713

Increase or Decrease.

Years.				Years.			
In 1842 over 1841	....	+	25·2	In 1843 over 1841	....	+	48·1
1843 „ 1842	....	+	18·2	1844 „	....	+	22·3
1844 „ 1843	....	-	21·1	1845 „	....	-	7·6
1845 „ 1844	....	-	31·6				

Whilst returning prosperity and more regular employment may have had their influence in producing this truly gratifying result, these causes, considered alone, cannot, I think, account for the extent to which the reduction has been carried. The great attention which has of late been given to the question of the operation of the Game Laws, and the requirement that copies of all convictions under those laws shall be transmitted to the Home Office, have, I feel convinced, largely contributed to this important falling off in one of the most demoralizing and destructive classes of crime.

But, perhaps, the least satisfactory feature in the whole of the following tables, is the lamentable state of ignorance which prevails throughout all classes of offenders. It must be borne in mind that all the calculations in this paper relating to education have reference only to the amount of the simplest rudimental instruction amongst the several classes of offenders—the mere mechanical process of reading and writing; and if the state of instruction in this respect is found to be so seriously defective, it may confidently be affirmed, that it is so to a much greater extent as regards that intellectual, moral, and religious training, to which youth should be subjected, and which alone can deserve the term of education.

Now, among the prisoners in England and Wales, on the annual mean of the five years, 1839 to 1843, there were:—

	Assizes and Sessions.	Summary Convictions.
Prisoners who can neither read nor write.....	9,530 or 34·9 per cent.	26,924 or 38·1 per cent.
Who can read only.....	6,329 or 22·5 „	13,932 or 20·6 „
Who can read or write badly....	9,598 or 34·3 „	22,278 or 33·2 „
	.... 90·7 „	.... 91·9 „
Who can read and write well ...	2,629 or 9·0 „	2,657 or 4·0 „

Hence it appears that out of the entire body of the prisoners at assizes and sessions, 90·7 per cent. had received little or no instruction,

and only 9 per cent. could read and write well; and of the prisoners confined under summary convictions, 91·9 per cent. had received little or no instruction, and only 4 per cent. could read and write well. No statement can be stronger as to the state of ignorance amongst criminals, even as regards the most elementary instruction. It may be considered as a point almost universally conceded, that to the want of moral and religious training, combined with proper intellectual and physical culture (all which is included in a just notion of education), we must ascribe the criminal courses to which numerous juvenile delinquents are addicted. These young offenders are, to a great extent, either orphans, or bereft by death of either father or mother, or too often deprived, by a subsequent marriage of the surviving parent, of the comfort and protection of home; or they are the illegitimate offspring of depraved and abandoned characters—they are thrown deserted upon the world, all equally friendless and uninstructed. Such are the unhappy children who infest our streets and throng our gaols. And to what other results can their neglected condition be expected to lead? Deprived of parents, or deserted by them, brought up in ignorance, destitute of principles, incessantly exposed to temptation, these poor children inevitably strike into the only path which appears open to them, and yield to the force which impels them to crime.

Prisoners at Assizes and Sessions, and Results of Proceedings.

Classes of Crimes.	Proportions to 100,000 of the Population.				
	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843
Class I. Offences against the Person. (Assaults predominate)	13·0	12·0	13·4	13·2	14·9
„ II. Offences with violence against Property	9·2	12·3	11·8	13·5	15·5
„ III. Offences without violence against Property (chiefly Larceny)	124·2	136·9	138·4	148·9	136·5
„ IV. Malicious Offences against Property	0·7	0·9	0·6	1·2	1·7
„ V. Offences against the Currency....	2·8	3·4	2·8	3·9	4·1
„ VI. Miscellaneous, not before included	7·9	7·7	7·5	13·5	8·5
Total.....	157·8	173·2	174·5	194·2	181·2

The successful prosecutions, *i. e.*, the convictions in England and Wales, present the following proportions in each of the five years, both as respects the total criminals, and the total population:—

Years.	Proportion per cent. of Convicted to Accused.	Proportion of Convicted to 100,000 of Total Population.
1839	71·0	114·4
1840	72·3	125·0
1841	72·2	123·0
1842	72·2	139·7
1843	71·7	131·2

Thus showing an increase on the convictions themselves, of 1 per cent., and with respect to the general population, 14·7 per cent.; a

result quite conclusive as to the positive and very material increase of the ascertained crimes of the higher class. The proportions of the acquittals (which include the prisoners acquitted at the bar, those against whom the bills were ignored by the grand jury, and those also who were not prosecuted), were as follows, in the several years:—

Years.	Proportion per cent. of Acquitted to Accused.	Proportion of Acquitted to 100,000 of Total Population.
1839	27·6	44·5
1840	26·5	45·7
1841	26·5	45·2
1842	26·8	51·8
1843	27·0	49·4

Thus showing a slight decrease (2·2 per cent.) as respects the prisoners themselves, and an increase of 11 per cent., as compared with the population of the country. As, however the acquittals are divided into three classes, it may interesting to see the proportions which each bears to the whole.

Proportion per cent. to Total Acquittals.					
Classes of Acquittals.	1839.	1840.	1841.	1842.	1843.
Acquittals at the Bar	64·1	66·1	64·6	67·8	70·1
No Bills Found	21·7	23·1	24·3	22·7	21·7
Prosecutions relinquished	14·2	10·8	11·1	9·5	8·2
Total acquittals	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

From this table it appears that the average annual proportion of prisoners against whom no bills were found by the grand juries amounts to 22·7 in a hundred, or nearly one quarter of all the acquittals, a proportion far too high to allow of the supposition that the initial investigations of offences are conducted with uniform care and diligence. The acquittals at the bar are seriously on the increase. The cases in which the prosecutions were relinquished have decreased 73·2 per cent. in the quinquennial period. The acquittals generally preponderate on the side of the females, the proportions being—of acquitted males 100, and of acquitted females 116·5; a circumstance probably owing to the unwillingness of juries to convict female prisoners when there remains even a shadow of doubt as to their guilt.

The numbers of those admitted as crown evidence, vary so little in each of the five years, as to require no remark beyond this:—that on an average of the five years the males bear to the females a proportion of 100 to 19. Of those bailed in court to appear at a subsequent tribunal, the number in 1842, which was the year of aggravated distress, was not above one-half of what it was in the other years of the quinquennial period, owing, in all probability, to the difficulty of getting good accountable bail in a season of general difficulty. Of those who did not appear to their recognizances, the numbers in 1842 were 50, whereas in the previous year there were only 16, and in the year following only 23. Criminal Insanity seems nearly stationary during the whole period; the average total bearing to

the total of crime during the five years, a proportion of only one to 1000—a sure proof that the assertions generally made respecting the large amount and increase of Criminal Insanity are wholly without foundation.

The different counties of England furnish materials for very important investigations on the comparisons between alleged and proved criminality. The proportions of the convictions and acquittals vary greatly in the several counties; and, in order that the successful prosecutions or convictions may be properly represented, a list of all the English Counties is furnished, arranged in a descending order, regulated by the proportion of the convictions to the committals, in the years 1839 and 1843.

Counties.	Proportion of Convictions to Committals.		Proportion of Acquittals to Committals.	
	1839.	1843.	1839.	1843.
Rutland	91·7	78·4	8·3	21·6
Notts	78·2	79·5	19·9	17·3
York	77·9	76·7	20·7	21·8
Lancaster	77·4	76·0	21·6	22·0
Warwick	79·9	73·2	19·8	26·4
Lincoln	73·1	76·9	25·5	22·3
Northumberland	70·6	77·3	29·4	22·7
Sussex	72·0	75·5	27·0	23·3
Bedford	81·2	65·8	18·7	32·9
Leicester	74·8	71·8	24·9	28·0
Huntingdon	67·9	78·1	30·2	20·5
Middlesex	72·0	73·8	25·0	24·1
Norfolk	72·6	73·1	25·3	26·0
Kent	71·7	73·8	27·2	25·1
Essex	72·6	72·3	25·0	27·2
Chester	73·4	71·9	24·1	28·0
Somerset	72·7	71·0	26·7	28·6
Suffolk	69·0	74·0	30·2	25·3
Derby	71·8	70·7	27·3	27·6
Durham	65·7	74·6	33·7	24·4
Westmoreland	71·7	69·8	28·3	20·8
Devon	69·8	69·4	29·1	29·8
Hants	70·2	68·6	29·0	30·4
Wilts	71·2	66·9	27·2	31·1
Northampton	71·0	66·2	28·2	32·5
Oxford	69·2	67·5	29·8	31·6
Cambridge	66·8	67·7	32·3	31·7
Worcester	71·7	63·4	27·4	36·3
Gloucester	68·4	66·4	31·0	33·3
Stafford	61·8	72·6	38·0	27·1
Cornwall	68·0	62·8	31·3	36·9
Salop	65·0	62·9	32·3	36·5
Monmouth	68·5	59·4	31·5	40·6
Hereford	60·9	64·6	38·2	35·4
Berks	60·4	61·7	37·5	36·8
Dorset	63·0	58·5	35·5	41·2
Bucks	63·8	67·5	38·5	30·6
Herts	65·9	64·4	33·7	34·9
Cumberland	69·5	83·9	29·9	16·1
Surrey	51·2	61·6	48·7	38·2
England	71·1	71·9	27·5	26·9

From this table, which is at once curious and important, it appears that the different localities of the country exhibit the most extraordinary variations. For instance, the proportions of the convicted to the committed prisoners in 1839 rose, in certain districts, over others at a rate of no less than 79·1 per cent., and in 1843 to 43·4 per cent.; while the acquitted to the committed show the enormous difference of 486 per cent. in 1839, and of 156 in 1843, those counties of England being selected which exhibit the extreme variations.

The classification of the various offences, and the exhibition of the modes of punishment with which they are visited, will be more fully seen by an examination of the very clear and comprehensive Criminal Tables for the five years drawn up at the Home Office. It is proposed here simply to furnish a few proportionals, comparing the different classes of crimes and punishments with the whole respectively, and showing, also, the proportionate kinds of punishments with which the different classes of crimes were respectively visited, the calculations being based on the annual mean of the quinquennial period. In this table the convictions and punishments of the six classes together make an exact hundred, while the punishments in each class constitute the totals of the convictions in the same class respectively.

Re-committals.

These tables, taken in connexion, show many curious results, both with respect to the re-committals generally, and in their several classes. The densely populated counties of Lancaster and Middlesex show by far the greatest number of total re-committals, the former exhibiting a proportion of nearly 50 per cent. to all prisoners, while 47 per cent. of the re-committed prisoners were aggravated cases:—while in Middlesex the general proportions were somewhat more than 45 per cent., the aggravated cases bearing to the whole re-committals the ratio of 34·2 per cent. Oxford exhibits a general proportion of 35 re-committed to 100 prisoners, and in aggravated cases of 41·7 per cent.; an amount attributable, perhaps, in some measure, to the influence of a rich and juvenile population on female morals. Surrey (a metropolitan county) exhibits a proportion of 37·2 per cent. of re-committed prisoners to all prisoners, and about the same proportion of aggravated cases as Middlesex, viz., 34 per cent. In Northumberland (where the re-committed prisoners form little more than one-fourth (26·7) to all prisoners), the aggravated cases mounted as high as 43·3 per cent.; and in the adjoining colliery county of Durham, the proportion of re-committed prisoners amounted only to 23·6 per cent. to all prisoners, the aggravated cases being 33·1 per cent. In ten counties, viz., Notts, Essex, Bedford, Wilts, Berks, Norfolk, Bucks, Stafford, Somerset, and Dorset, where the general proportions were under 30 and above 25 per cent., the proportions of aggravated cases were as follows:—Somerset, 32·5; Bucks, 32·1; Norfolk, 28·6; Stafford, 27·2; Essex, 25·1; Bedford and Wilts, 19·9; Berks, 19·7; Notts, 15; and Dorset only 13·7 per cent.

In twelve counties, viz., Kent, Huntingdon, Cornwall, Durham, Hants, Cambridge, Worcester, Westmoreland, Herts, Warwick, Derby, and Hereford, the general proportions varied between 20 and 25 per cent., the proportion of aggravated re-committals being, in Durham,

33·1; Cambridge, 32·1; Herts, 30·8; Kent, 28·2; Cornwall, 27·3; Hants, 24·; Derby, 17·3, and Warwick nearly the same; Huntingdon, 16·4; Worcester, 15·3; and Westmoreland, 12·8. Cumberland, where the proportion of re-committals to total offenders is comparatively low, exhibits a proportion of aggravated cases amounting to 26·6 per cent. In South Wales the general proportions of re-committals were 15·2 per cent to all prisoners, and 27·3 per cent. were aggravated re-committals; whereas in the Northern Division of the Principality, where the general proportions were 6·4 per cent., those prisoners thrice or upwards re-committed bore to the whole re-committed a minor proportion of 15 per cent.

From examination it is found that there are certain counties in which the proportion of re-committed females exceeds that of the males, while in certain others the opposite is the fact. Thus in Lancaster, Middlesex, Surrey, Oxford, Northumberland, Durham, York, Warwick, Monmouth, and Cornwall (which comprises nine-tenths of the trading, manufacturing, and mining industry of the country,) the female re-committals are higher than those of the males; whereas in the rural districts—for instance, in Bedford, Berks, Bucks, Cambridge, Cumberland, Dorset, Devon, Essex, Leicester, Lincoln, Norfolk, Rutland, Salop, Somerset, Suffolk, Sussex, Westmoreland, and Wilts, the crimes of the males prevail more or less over those of the females.

In South Wales the female re-committals are considerably higher than those of the males, whereas the opposite is the case in North Wales.

In Lancaster, Middlesex, and Surrey, where female crime attains its culminating point, the density of population conduces, doubtless, to a very high amount of convictions, arising from disorder, brawls, and drunkenness, incidental to prostitutes and other profligate females. In Northumberland, Durham, York, and Warwick, likewise (in all of which female labour is exercised in its most deteriorating form), the proportion of female over male re-commitments is most remarkable;—and whenever females are employed in masculine occupations, congregated together in large numbers, with opportunities for free intercourse with the other sex, female crime will prevail over that of the males,—though chiefly in offences of the lower class. Among the total male re-committals the following counties range successively:—Chester, Oxford, and Surrey, 33·8 per cent. each; Leicester, 33·4; York, 32·3; Suffolk, 32·1; Sussex, 31·9; Essex, 31·4; Notts, 30·1. Eight counties range between 30 and 25 per cent., in the general proportions, viz., Wilts, Norfolk, Berks, Bucks, Dorset, Stafford, Somerset, and Huntingdon; eleven counties, viz., Cambridge, Kent, Cornwall, Hants, Northumberland, Durham, Westmoreland, Worcester, Salop, Derby, and Herts, exhibit general proportions, varying between 25 and 20 per cent. to the total prisoners. In Hereford and Northampton the re-committals form a proportion of 19 per cent. to the total prisoners. In Lincoln, Devon, Gloucester, and Monmouth, the proportions vary from 17 to 14 per cent. The two lowest counties, as regards general proportions, are Cumberland and Rutland—both equal, viz., 12·8 per cent.; and the latter, as might be expected from its small population, exhibits a very large proportion of primary re-committals; but the smallest proportions in all England of the aggravated cases. In Wales,

the Southern Division nearly doubles in its general proportions the Northern Division.

As respects the proportions of the females, Cornwall (29·9), Somerset (29·8), Kent (27·7), and Cumberland (26·7) per cent. ranged between 35 and 25 per cent. in the general proportions. Thirteen counties, viz., Hereford, Warwick, Hants, Herts, Notts, Monmouth, Essex, Berks, Stafford, Leicester, Dorset, Gloucester, and Sussex, range in their general proportions between 25 and 20 per cent. The eight lowest counties are Bedford (14·9), Westmoreland (14·5), Rutland (13·3), Lincoln (12·4), Bucks (12·2), Salop (12·), Northampton (11·5), Huntingdon (10·2). In South Wales the proportions of the females prevail over those in North Wales in the proportion of 19·4 to 31 per cent. This disproportion as regards the females, may be attributed to the circumstance that in South Wales there is a great demand for mining, factory, and other labour, which calls forth the females from their proper sphere of domestic occupations.

Terms of Imprisonment before Trial.

The following table exhibits, in six groups, the terms of imprisonment before trial of all prisoners (without reference to sex) in England and Wales, separately and conjointly, as well as the separate counties of each, together with the proportions per cent. which the several classes bear to the whole in each year of the quinquennial period, 1839—1843. And the accuracy of the deduction is proved by the fact, that the sum of the constituent parts amounts exactly to a hundred without a decimal.

The object of the table is to show the long imprisonment to which committed criminals are subjected, in many cases antecedently to the proof of their guilt or innocence; and it will appear that out of 24,473 prisoners, committed in 1839, throughout England and Wales, no less than 9,493, or 38·8 per cent. of the whole, were taken away from their families, and kept in gaol one month and upwards, before their cases were examined by the juries. As respects those imprisoned two months and upwards, before trial, there were 3,946, or 16·1 per cent.; and of those imprisoned three months and upwards, 881, or 3·6 per cent.; facts quite conclusive as to the necessity of more frequent judicial inquiries. The following table exhibits the proportions for each year of the quinquennial period:—

Years.	Terms of Imprisonment before Trial.		
	Proportion per cent. of Prisoners One Month and upwards.	Proportion per cent. of Prisoners Two Months and upwards.	Proportion per cent. of Prisoners Three Months and upwards.
England { 1839 ...	38·8	16·1	3·6
and { 1840	38·2	15·1	4·1
Wales. { 1841	40·4	15·1	3·7
{ 1842	39·7	15·7	4·4
{ 1843	40·0	16·3	5·8
Annual Mean	39·4	15·6	4·3

Thus showing an increase during the quinquennial period of + 3·2 per cent. of those confined one month and upwards; of + 1·2 per cent. of prisoners confined two months and upwards; and + 60 per cent. of those confined three months and upwards before trial.

Prisoners under Summary Convictions.

The positive numbers of prisoners summarily convicted, throughout England and Wales in 1839 and 1843, amounted to 57,455 and 73,196 respectively, showing a proportion to 100,000 of population of 371, and 448·1 respectively, and an increase of the latter over the former year, amounting to 20·8 per cent. The numbers of males in the same years were 43,280 and 57,361; of females, 14,175 and 15,835, showing a proportion of 100,000 of male population of 572 and 719, of females, 179 and 189½, to a similar female population, with an increase in the former of about 25½ per cent., and of the females 5·9 per cent. during the quinquennial period. The great increase was in 1842, being about 10 per cent. from 1841. The increase continued in 1843, but at a considerably diminished ratio, being under 2½ per cent. on the preceding year. The great increase of 1842 was occasioned, in a great measure, by general distress; but in the following year that increase was checked, though not entirely, by a healthy reaction flowing out of returning prosperity.

In England only, the numbers in 1839 and 1843, were 56,715 and 72,090 respectively, showing a proportion of 388·5 and 468·1 to 100,000 of total population during the two years (1839–1843) respectively. The increase during the quinquennial period being 20·5 per cent. on the total, 25·4 per cent. on the male prisoners, and an increase of only 5·7 per cent. on the female prisoners.

The numbers for Wales were 740 in 1839 and 1,106 in 1843, showing a proportion of 83·1 and 118·5 to 100,000 of total population—the amount of increase during the five years being, among males, + 45·2, females, + 29·6, and totals, + 42·6; this increase being on continually ascending numbers.

The check which the lower class of crime received in the year 1843, will be more plainly seen by the following tabular arrangement:—

	Increase 1839–1843.			Increase or Decrease, 1841–1842.			Increase or Decrease, 1842–1843.		
	Males.	Females	Total	Males.	Females	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.
England & Wales	25·7	5·9	20·8	+ 13·5	– 1·0	+ 9·9	+ 3·3	– 0·6	+ 2·4
England only.....	25·4	5·7	20·5	+ 13·3	– 1·1	+ 9·8	+ 3·1	– 0·7	+ 2·3
Wales only.....	45·2	29·6	42·6	+ 28·0	+ 8·7	+ 25·4	16·0	+ 11·6	+ 15·3

The Table of Summary Convictions, however, exhibits, in addition to the amount of crime, an extensive classification, which will now be investigated, in order that the whole results of these inquiries may be shown to the reader in an instructive and comprehensive form. The

following are the proportions which the different classes bear to the population in each of the five years:—

Classes of Crimes,		Proportions to 100,000 of Population.				
		1839.	1840.	1841.	1842.	1843.
Class I.	Military Prisoners	10·8	13·0	11·8	13·0	13·2
„ II.	Under the Game Laws	32·5	33·2	36·8	46·1	54·8
„ III.	„ Revenue Laws	3·2	3·2	3·5	4·4	4·7
„ IV.	„ Bastardy Laws.....	1·5	1·1	0·7	0·4	0·2
„ V.	„ Vagrant Act	111·5	124·1	116·8	129·6	135·4
„ VI.	„ Malicious Trespass Act	17·3	18·0	18·8	23·5	24·4
„ VII.	„ Larceny Act.....	17·9	18·9	16·0	19·7	11·1
„ VIII.	„ Metropolitan or Local Police Act	11·7	14·2	20·9	18·1	22·7
„ IX.	Assaults	47·5	56·0	59·0	63·3	64·8
„ X.	Want of Sureties	21·8	17·5	18·5	20·4	22·6
„ XI.	Reputed Thieves	28·7	35·2	33·2	30·7	26·7
„ XII.	All not before included	83·2	90·2	80·8	91·8	95·7

As respects the results, a large preponderance of Vagrant Act Convictions will be observed, chiefly the effect of domestic destitution and unsettled habits, caused in all probability by the more serious crimes of the natural supporters of families, aggravated also, it may be supposed, by the general distress throughout the country: next come the assaults, flowing chiefly out of intemperate habits; and then follow the reputed thieves. The Game Law Convictions have increased during the quinquennial period at a rate considerably greater than those of any other.

It will hence be seen that as respects military prisoners, Kent and Hants (in which are the chief barracks and dépôts,) show the greatest increase. The Game-Law convictions have been considered apart in a table made for that special purpose, and to which the reader is referred. The offences against the revenue are exceedingly large in Lancaster, Northumberland, Surrey, and Middlesex, which show increments of 100, 75, 48, and 29, respectively. The offences against the Bastardy Laws are chiefly confined to males, and are decidedly on the decrease in England, but on the increase in Wales. The numbers in the counties are too low to admit of any fair proportional deduction. Vagrancy has been decidedly on the increase, particularly in Kent, where it rose to 240 per cent. in the five years. In Leicester the increase was 104 per cent., in Lancaster 78 per cent., and in Essex 63 per cent. In Wales the increase amounted to 111 per cent. The offences under the Malicious Trespass Act increased largely in Surrey, Somerset, and Leicester, which exhibit respectively increments of 217, 146½, and 145 per cent. in the five years. Larcenies have on the whole decreased

in England $63\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., while they have increased in Wales 104 per cent. during the five years. Offences against Police Acts are not noticed in these remarks, because they have a partial application in the several counties, accordingly as they have or have not numerous large towns: the increase in England during the quinquennial period amounted to 101 per cent. Assaults have increased in Leicester and Essex at the rate of 104 and 59 per cent. respectively, in Middlesex 38 per cent., in Lancaster 37, and in Somerset 36 per cent.: in England and Wales the increases have been 37 and 43 per cent. respectively. Imprisonments for want of sureties increased considerably in Kent, viz., $112\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., in Leicester to 92 per cent., in Northumberland $87\frac{1}{2}$, and in Essex a decrease of 80 per cent. In Wales they increased at the rate of $66\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. during the quinquennial period. In the convictions of Reputed Thieves there has upon the whole been a decrease; but Somerset exhibits a lamentable increase of $145\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The miscellaneous convictions need no remark, as the nature of the offences cannot be identified. Other and equally interesting remarks might be made after a patient investigation of the offences committed in the other counties of England and Wales.

These observations are concluded by an exhibition of the proportions which the total female offenders bore to the total males in the following classes, during the years 1839, 1842, and 1843:

Classes of Crimes.	1839.	1842.	1843.
Class I. Revenue Offences....	7·0 to 100 males	10·6 to 100 males	11·5 to 100 males
„ II. Bastardy	5·1 „	1·6 „	5·0 „
„ III. Vagrancy	65·0 „	47·6 „	45·6 „
„ IV. Malicious Trespasses	25·5 „	27·4 „	24·3 „
„ V. Larcenies	21·2 „	16·3 „	13·7 „
„ VI. Offences under Po- lice Acts	71·6 „	48·3 „	40·0 „
„ VII. Assaults	17·6 „	17·7 „	16·6 „
„ VIII. Imprisoned for want of Sureties }	25·6 „	18·6 „	22·0 „
„ IX. Reputed Thieves	18·6 „	16·3 „	16·3 „

As respects, however, the increase or decrease in the above counties, in Notts there was a total increase of long imprisonments before trial—viz., of those confined one month and upwards, 8·8 per cent.; of those confined two months and upwards, 50·9 per cent.; and of those confined three months and upwards, 251·5 per cent. In Bucks there was a decrease of prisoners confined two months and upwards before trial, of 5· per cent., and of those confined three months and upwards an increase of 72·5 per cent. In Lincoln, the prisoners confined two months and upwards, increased at the rate of 14·5 per cent.; and those confined three months and upwards, at the rate of 64·6 per cent. In York, there has been a decided decrease of 17·9 per cent. in the imprisonments for one month and upwards; of 43·1 per cent. in those of two

months and upwards; and an increase of 1·3 per cent. in prisoners confined upwards of three months before trial.

TABLE showing the Terms of Imprisonment of the Total Number of Prisoners before Trial in England and Wales, together with the Proportions (per cent.) which the several Classes bear to the whole, in each of the Five Years 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, and 1843.

Locality and Years.		1.—TERMS OF IMPRISONMENT BEFORE TRIAL.					
		Under 14 Days.		14 Days and under 1 Month.		1 Month and under 2 Months.	
		Number of Prisoners.	Proportion per Cent. to Total Imprisoned.	Number of Prisoners.	Proportion per Cent. to Total Imprisoned.	Number of Prisoners.	Proportion per Cent. to Total Imprisoned.
England and Wales.	1839 ...	9,025	37·6	5,775	23·6	5,547	22·7
	1840	9,597	36·4	6,703	25·4	6,090	23·1
	1841	8,600	34·7	6,175	24·9	6,286	25·3
	1842	9,985	34·8	7,313	25·5	6,871	23·9
	1843	9,672	35·3	6,740	24·7	6,497	23·7
		2 Months and under 3 Months.		3 Months and under 6 Months.		6 Months and upwards.	
England and Wales.	1839	3,065	12·5	756	3·1	125	0·51
	1840	2,895	11·0	915	3·5	151	0·57
	1841	2,821	11·4	791	3·2	120	0·48
	1842	3,239	11·3	1,052	3·7	223	0·78
	1843	2,880	10·6	1,247	4·5	328	1·2

Terms of Imprisonment after Trial.

The object of the next table is to show the various terms, differing from under fourteen days to three years and upwards, during which prisoners have been confined, in compliance with the sentences passed by the juries, at Assizes and Sessions in England and Wales, both separately and conjointly, arranged in twelve groups, which with a view to conciseness, are now re-arranged in four groups, showing the proportions in each year, and the increase and decrease in the quinquennial period.

In England and Wales, the following are the proportions from which the increase and decrease are calculated.

Locality and Years.		Convicted Prisoners confined.							
		Under 1 Month.		Between 1 and 3 Months.		Between 3 Months and 1 Year.		Above 1 Year.	
England and Wales.	1839	2,190	15·7	3,569	25·5	6,675	47·7	1,551	11·1
	1840	2,147	13·8	3,956	25·4	7,411	47·5	2,073	13·3
	1841	2,248	14·3	4,265	27·0	7,627	48·4	1,617	10·3
	1842	2,319	12·7	4,942	27·0	8,908	48·7	2,104	11·5
	1843	2,179	12·6	4,771	27·6	8,359	48·4	1,939	11·2

From these proportions are deduced a decrease of 24· per cent. of convicted prisoners confined under one month; an increase of 8·3 per cent. of those between one and three months; an increase of 1·5 per cent. of those between three months and one year; and a slight increase of 1·3 per cent. of those above one year, between the extreme years of the quinquennial period.

TABLE showing the Terms of Imprisonment of the Total Number of Prisoners after Trial in England and Wales, together with the Proportions (per cent.) which the several Classes bear to the whole in each of the Five Years 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, and 1843.

Locality and Years.		2.—TERMS OF IMPRISONMENT AFTER TRIAL.					
		Under 14 days.		14 Days and under 1 Month.		1 Month and under 2 Months.	
		Number of Prisoners.	Proportion per cent. to Total Convicted.	Number of Prisoners.	Proportion per cent. to Total Convicted.	Number of Prisoners.	Proportion per cent. to Total Convicted.
England and Wales.	1839....	1,363	9·8	827	5·9	2,187	15·6
	1840....	1,020	6·6	1,127	7·2	2,356	15·1
	1841....	777	4·9	1,064	6·7	2,486	15·8
	1842....	838	4·6	1,141	6·2	2,776	15·2
	1843....	824	4·8	1,103	6·4	2,706	15·7
		2 Months and under 3 Months.		3 Months and under 6 Months.		6 Months and under 1 Year.	
England and Wales.	1839....	1,382	9·9	3,720	26·6	2,955	21·1
	1840....	1,600	10·3	4,010	25·7	3,401	21·8
	1841....	1,779	11·3	4,262	27·0	3,365	21·4
	1842....	2,166	11·8	4,890	26·7	4,018	22·0
	1843....	2,065	12·0	4,648	26·9	3,711	21·5
		1 Year and under 2 Years.		2 Years and under 3 Years.		3 Years and upwards.	
England and Wales.	1839....	1,329	9·5	201	1·4	21	0·15
	1840....	1,680	10·8	338	2·2	55	0·35
	1841....	1,388	8·8	219	1·4	9	0·06
	1842....	1,886	10·3	205	1·1	10	0·05
	1843....	1,742	10·1	189	1·0	4	0·02
		Unlimited Terms of Imprisonment.		Whipped, Fined, or Discharged on Sureties.		Sentences Deferred,	
England and Wales.	1839....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	1840....	....	....	....	....	....	....
	1841....	1	0·006	407	2·6	4	0·03
	1842....	3	0·02	340	1·9	11	0·06
	1843....	4	0·02	252	1·6	11	0·06

Terms of Imprisonment under Summary Convictions.

The following table exhibits, in ten groups, all prisoners summarily convicted, without reference to sex, in England and Wales, separately and conjointly, with the proportions per cent. which the several classes bear to the whole in each year of the quinquennial period. The deserters awaiting a route are deducted in this table, so that the totals agree with those in Table II., which gives a specification of the summary convictions themselves. As respects England and Wales, the imprisonments under three months form a proportion of 87· per cent. in 1839, and of 89·2 per cent. in 1843. These proportions, however, will be best seen by the aid of tabular arrangement as follows:—

Locality and Years.		Under 1 Month.	Between 1 and 3 Months.	Between 3 Months and 1 Year.	Above 1 Year.
England and Wales.	1839....	41·3	45·7	12·6	0·44
	1840....	41·5	45·4	12·3	0·75
	1841....	44·3	44·4	10·8	0·56
	1842....	47·8	41·6	9·9	0·55
	1843....	47·1	42·1	10·1	0·51
Annual Mean		44·4	43·8	11·1	0·56

These proportions exhibit an increase during the quinquennial period of 14·2 per cent. of those confined under one month; a decrease of 8·6 per cent. of prisoners confined between one and three months; a decrease of 24·5 per cent. of prisoners confined between three months and one year; and an increase of 17·4 per cent. of those confined above one year. It will be curious also to notice the effect of the aggravation of crime in 1842 over 1841; the increase in 1842 being 7·9 per cent. of those confined under one month, and a decrease of 6·7 per cent. of prisoners confined between one and three months; a decrease of 9·2 per cent. of prisoners confined between three months and one year, and a decrease also of 2·3 per cent. of those confined above one year.

TABLE showing the Terms of Imprisonment of the Total Number of Prisoners under Summary Convictions in England and Wales, together with the Proportions (per cent.) which the several Classes bear to the whole, in each of the Five Years 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, and 1843.

Locality and Years.		3.—TERMS OF IMPRISONMENT UNDER SUMMARY CONVICTIONS.			
		Under 14 Days.		14 Days and under 1 Month.	
		Number of Prisoners.	Proportion per cent. to Total Convicted.	Number of Prisoners.	Proportion per cent. to Total Convicted.
England and Wales.	1839	10,452	18·2	13,259	23·1
	1840	11,879	18·6	14,661	22·9
	1841	13,074	20·7	14,918	23·6
	1842	15,888	22·5	17,789	25·2
	1843	16,058	21·9	18,431	25·2

Locality and Years.		3.—TERMS OF IMPRISONMENT UNDER SUMMARY CONVICTIONS.— <i>continued.</i>			
		1 Month and under 2 Months.		2 Months and under 3 Months.	
		Number of Prisoners.	Proportion per cent. to Total Convicted.	Number of Prisoners.	Proportion per cent. to Total Convicted.
England and Wales.	1839	19,607	34·1	6,666	11·6
	1840	21,787	34·1	7,280	11·4
	1841	21,111	33·4	6,953	11·0
	1842	21,691	30·8	7,649	10·9
	1843	22,959	31·4	7,862	10·7
		3 Months and under 6 Months.		6 Months and under 1 Year.	
England and Wales.	1839	6,457	11·3	764	1·3
	1840	7,185	11·2	707	1·1
	1841	6,103	9·6	713	1·1
	1842	6,165	8·7	796	1·1
	1843	6,452	8·8	937	1·3
		1 Year and under 2 Years.		2 Years and upwards.	
England and Wales.	1839	181	0·31	3	0·01
	1840	148	0·23	3	0·01
	1841	128	0·20	1	0·002
	1842	169	0·25	8	0·01
	1843	173	0·24	7	0·01
		Unlimited Terms of Imprisonment.		Whipped, Fined, or Discharged on Sureties.	
England and Wales.	1839	66	0·11	....	....
	1840	329	0·51	....	....
	1841	224	0·35	71	0·11
	1842	208	0·30	144	0·20
	1843	194	0·27	123	0·17

Transports and Terms of Transportation.

The accompanying table exhibits, in six groups, the various terms of transportation in England and Wales, separately and conjointly, in each year of the quinquennial period, together with the proportion per cent. which each group bears to the total transports as well as to the total convicted at assizes and sessions, and showing also the proportion which the total transports bear to the total convicted, as well as to 100,000 of total population, with the increase or decrease respectively.

In England and Wales the total transports in 1839 were 3,728; those in 1843, 4,166; showing proportions respectively of 21· and 19·4 per cent. to the total convicts, thus exhibiting a decrease of 8·3 per cent.; but as compared with the population generally an increase of 6· per cent. Of these transports, the following were the proportions as compared with the whole of those sentenced to an exile of less than fourteen years:—

Years.				Years.			
1839	....	2,960	.... 79·4	} Increase or Decrease	1839-40	.....	- 3·9
1840	....	3,069	.... 76·4		1840-41	.....	- 0·3
1841	....	2,887	.... 76·2		1841-42	.....	- 0·2
1842	....	3,216	.... 76·0		1842-43	.....	+ 1·9
1843	....	3,227	.... 77·5		1839-43	.....	- 2·5

Of the transportations for fifteen years and upwards, exclusively of those for life (which are exhibited by themselves in the table), the following were the proportions as compared with the total transports:—

Years.				Years.			
1839	....	521	.... 14·0	} Increase or Decrease	1839-40	.....	- 28·2
1840	....	438	.... 10·9		1840-41	.....	+ 8·7
1841	....	449	.... 11·9		1841-42	.....	+ 17·5
1842	....	589	.... 13·9		1842-43	.....	- 14·7
1843	....	506	.... 12·1		1839-43	.....	- 15·1

TABLE shewing the various terms for which the Total Number of Prisoners were sentenced to Transportation in England and Wales, in each of the Five Years 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, and 1843, together with the Proportions (per cent.) which the several Classes bear to the Total Transports, and the Total Convicted at Assizes and Sessions; likewise the Proportion which the Total Transports bear to 100,000 of the Total Population, and the Increase or Decrease between the extreme Years of the above Quinquennial Period.

Locality and Years.		SENTENCES OF TRANSPORTATION.					
		7 Years and under 10 Years.			10 Years and under 14 Years.		
		Number of Prisoners.	Proportion per cent. to Total Transports.	Proportion per cent. to Total Convicted.	Number of Prisoners.	Proportion per cent. to Total Transports.	Proportion per cent. to Total Convicted.
England and Wales.	1839....	1,880	50·4	10·6	1,080	29·	6·1
	1840....	1,911	47·6	9·7	1,158	28·8	5·9
	1841....	1,693	44·7	8·7	1,194	31·5	6·1
	1842....	1,841	43·5	8·2	1,375	32·5	6·1
	1843....	1,841	44·2	8·6	1,386	33·3	6·5
		14 Years and under 15 Years.			15 Years and under 21 Years.		
England and Wales.	1829....	....	....	....	504	13·5	2·8
	1830....	246	6·1	1·3	421	10·5	2·2
	1831....	243	6·4	1·2	438	11·6	2·2
	1832....	204	4·8	0·91	553	13·1	2·5
	1833....	154	3·7	0·72	475	11·4	2·2
		21 Years and upwards.			For Life.		
England and Wales.	1839....	17	0·46	0·1	247	6·6	1·4
	1840....	17	0·42	0·08	264	6·6	1·3
	1841....	11	0·29	0·06	209	5·5	1·1
	1842....	36	0·85	0·16	220	5·2	0·97
	1843....	31	0·74	0·14	279	6·7	1·3

Locality and Years.	SENTENCES OF TRANSPORTATION.— <i>continued.</i>				
	Totals of Transports.			Increase or Decrease.	
	Number of Prisoners.	Proportion per cent. to Total Convicted.	Proportion to 100,000 of Total Population.	Compared with Total Convicted.	Compared with Total Population.
England	1839.... 3,728	21·0	24	— 8·3	+ 6·0
	1840.... 4,017	20·5	26		
and	1841.... 3,788	19·4	24		
Wales.	1842.... 4,229	18·8	26		
	1843.... 4,166	19·4	25		

Game Law Convictions.

With respect to the amount, proportions, and increase of Game-Law convictions, as exhibited in the following table, the numbers of prisoners summarily convicted in 1839 and 1843 respectively in England and Wales were 2,462 and 4,348, showing proportions in the respective years as compared with all summary convictions of 5·69 and 7·58 per cent., but, as respects the population, of 32·5 and 54·5. The increase of these convictions from year to year, and during the quinquennial period, was as follows:—

In 1840 from 1839	2·1	increase.
1841 „ 1840	11·0	„
1842 „ 1841	25·2	„
1843 „ 1842	18·2	„
1839 „ 1843	67·4	„

A comparison of the different English counties, also, presents many interesting and highly important statements. The positive number of summary Game-Law convictions is greater, on the average of the five years, in Essex, Hants, Norfolk, Notts, Stafford, Suffolk, Surrey, Wilts, and York, than in any other English counties. This, however, proves nothing; but when a comparison is made between the Game-Law convictions of particular counties with all summary convictions, and in addition to this there be taken into consideration the calculated increase of the population, then correct and important inferences may be safely deduced. Thus, in Bedford the increase was 141·1 per cent, while in Berks and Bucks it amounted to 28½ and 95 per cent. respectively. In Chester, where the augmentation has been constantly progressive, the rate has reached 80½ per cent.; and Cambridge shows an increase of 85½ per cent. during the period. In Cornwall, Cumberland, Middlesex, and Monmouth, these crimes furnish no safe ground for calculation, as the numbers were very low; but in Devon these crimes increased at the rate of 134 per cent.; and in Durham (a colliery, under-ground working poor population) the increase has been 247 per cent. The increase of these convictions has been nearly equal in Essex and Oxford, viz., 124 per cent.; and the same remark applies to Huntingdon, Norfolk, and York, in all of which the increase during the period has been at the rate of about 150 per

cent., while in Lancaster the rate was 165 per cent. In Gloucester these offences doubled in the five years, in Lincoln nearly so, in Surrey they increased $115\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and in Rutland 200 per cent. In nine counties, viz., Berks, Hants, Herts, Kent, Leicester, Notts, Suffolk, Sussex, and Worcester, the increase was less than 50 per cent., the least being in Hants and Notts, which were at the rate of 13 and 11 per cent. respectively. In two counties only was there any decrease—in Northumberland of $44\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and in Somerset of 17 per cent.

The principal facts, however, respecting the increase or decrease of Game Law convictions between the several years of the quinquennial period, as well as between the extreme years, will be seen more clearly in the following table, which comprises twenty counties more particularly interesting as regards these convictions.

Counties.	Increase or Decrease per Cent.				
	1839-40.	1840-41.	1841-42.	1842-43.	1839-43.
Bedford.....	- 3.3	+ 29.7	+ 7.6	+ 78.6	+ 141.1
Berks	- 14.5	+ 4.2	+ 26.5	+ 11.7	+ 28.6
Bucks	+ 10.6	+ 25.5	+ 6.5	+ 32.0	+ 95.2
Cambridge	- 89.3	+ 149.8	+ 32.3	+ 6.3	+ 85.6
Chester	+ 42.5	+ 5.1	+ 19.5	+ 10.0	+ 80.6
Durham	+ 60.8	- 11.9	+ 53.8	+ 57.2	+ 247.1
Essex	+ 28.4	- 1.7	+ 24.3	+ 42.6	+ 123.8
Gloucester	- 4.5	+ 15.1	+ 56.0	+ 7.7	+ 102.3
Lancaster	+ 41.5	+ 12.5	+ 28.1	+ 30.1	+ 165.3
Leicester	+ 24.7	+ 3.1	+ 34.3	- 21.4	+ 42.1
Norfolk	- 39.7	+ 13.7	+ 30.7	+ 20.5	+ 150.2
Oxford	+ 20.1	+ 39.1	+ 12.6	+ 19.3	+ 124.3
Rutland	- 29.8	+ 27.4	+ 164.3	+ 15.6	+ 200.0
Salop	- 29.1	+ 137.6	+ 48.3	+ 4.3	+ 183.9
Stafford	- 11.3	+ 11.1	+ 37.9	+ 11.1	+ 52.9
Suffolk	+ 4.1	- 14.8	+ 2.3	+ 39.1	+ 28.9
Sussex	- 9.3	- 1.1	+ 17.7	+ 12.4	+ 19.9
Warwick	+ 10.4	- 50.0	+ 101.7	+ 10.4	+ 63.7
Wilts.....	- 11.5	+ 13.7	+ 34.6	+ 28.8	+ 76.8
York.....	+ 36.0	+ 3.2	+ 76.4	+ 0.2	+ 148.1

The above remarks apply only to the summary Game Law convictions; and, after all, the table by no means exhibits the entire amount of the crime and demoralization resulting from their operation, inasmuch as a very considerable number of persons summarily convicted for poaching get released at once by the payment of the fines inflicted, and thus are not entered at all in the gaol returns, as they never go to prison.

Independently of the summary convictions, there are the aggravated cases of prisoners convicted at assizes and sessions in each year, which have more than doubled on themselves, and nearly doubled the increase of summary convictions during the quinquennial period, 1839-1843. For instance, it is found on reference to the Criminal Tables of the Home Office for 1843 (p. 64), in Class VI. of the Comparative Table under the three heads "Deer-stealing and Feloniously resisting Deer-keepers," "Being out armed to take Game at night," &c., and

"Taking and destroying Fish in enclosed waters," (all of which are poaching offences), that in England and Wales the convictions in 1839 amounted to 75, and in 1843, to 175, thus showing an increase on the ordinary mode of reckoning, of 133 per cent., but in reality, when the progression of the male population is considered, of about 120 per cent. during the same period. Similarly, in England only, the real increase during the five years has been at the rate of 100 per cent. With respect to Wales, there were two acquittals and no convictions in 1839; but between 1840 and 1843 (both inclusive) the real increase amounted to 122 per cent. In Bucks, the convictions during the quinquennial period increased at the rate of 84 per cent. ; and in Chester, during the three years 1841-3 (there being no such convictions in the two previous years), at the rate of 267 per cent. In Gloucester the increase during the five years was at the rate of 560 per cent., and in Leicester of 75 per cent. In Stafford the average increase between 1839 and 1843 (for there were great fluctuations) rose as high as 405 per cent., and in York, the convictions increased at the rate of 47 per cent. in the five years. The numbers, however, of Game Law criminals of the higher class in each county are but small. In only five counties (Hants, Northumberland, Warwick, Wilts, and Worcester) was there any decrease. In Cornwall only were there no Game Law convictions of the higher class.

Independently, however, of all these considerations, and of the sentences of long imprisonments, and of transportation between seven and fourteen years, there are many other cases of national crime in the rural districts that cannot be entered in any description of Game Law tables, although directly growing out of the vicious habits engendered by poaching; and it is but reasonable to suppose that the classes Nos. 1 and 2 in the tables of the Home Office, *i. e.*, "Offences against the Person, and Offences against Property committed with Violence," receive considerable additions from prisoners, in the first place summarily convicted for mere acts of poaching in transgression of the present Game Laws; the vicious habits and utter recklessness induced by poaching, resulting in numerous instances of housebreaking, highway robbery, burglary, &c. It may be further stated, that in this class of offences there is a peculiarly demoralizing influence, inasmuch as they tend to destroy in the poor the power of distinguishing between the right and wrong both of persons and property. Rare also as capital executions have been in recent years, and only for murder of the most aggravated kind, there will yet be found, in 1843, an execution for the murder of a keeper, a crime directly arising from the unlawful pursuit of game.

It must be added, that these calculations are formed with reference to the male population only, because the offences are committed almost exclusively by males (there being only twenty females summarily convicted, and none at sessions and assizes during the whole five years). The crimes and punishment of the male parent, however, tend in all cases to the demoralization of whole families, the destruction of domestic self-respect, and in many instances to the breaking up of households, and the pauperism of the mother and children, who then may become offenders under the Vagrant Act or burdens on the Poor Laws, not to speak of the more serious offences likely to ensue from demoralized pauperism.

State of Instruction of Prisoners.

It is necessary to remark before entering into any detail, that it is exceedingly difficult to form any adequate conclusion respecting the state of education among criminal offenders;—and it is obvious, that any statement respecting the mere mechanical processes of reading and writing must form a very poor substitute for the information so much to be desired respecting the intellectual, moral, and religious training, to which the prisoners have, or ought to have been, subjected during their youth. It is to be hoped, indeed, that the amelioration of national education now actively in progress, under the sanction of the present Government, will soon exhibit its best effects in the diminution of crime: and it is to be hoped, the managers of prisons throughout England and Wales will pay an increased attention to the instruction of prisoners, (especially those of tender years,) in order that they may be deterred by sound instruction and moral information from hurrying forward in their sad career. Such details are exhibited, however, as could be easily furnished by the governors of the gaols throughout England and Wales; and both the higher and lower class of prisoners are divided into five sections, viz., those who can neither read nor write,—those who can read only,—those who can read or write badly,—those who can read and write well,—and those whose state of instruction could not be ascertained.

Among the prisoners in England and Wales there were, on the annual mean of the five years, 9,530 prisoners who could neither read nor write, forming a mean proportion of 33·9 of all the prisoners of the higher class; whereas among those confined under summary convictions the numbers on the annual mean were 26,924, or about 38 per cent. of all such prisoners. Of those who could read only the average mean annual number of prisoners at assizes and sessions amounted to 6,329, forming a mean proportion of 22·5 per cent. of all the prisoners; whereas among the lower class of prisoners the mean annual numbers were 13,932, or 20·6 per cent. of the whole. Of those who could read or write badly, the mean numbers were 9,598, or 34·3 per cent. among those at assizes and sessions; while of those under summary convictions the mean numbers and proportions were respectively 22,278 and 33·2 per cent. Of those who could read and write well, the mean annual numbers of the higher class of prisoners were 2,629, or 9· per cent., those of the lower class being 2,657, or somewhat more than 4 per cent. of all such prisoners. The prisoners whose state of instruction was not ascertained, forms a small and diminishing proportion to the whole in both classes.

A full investigation of the state of instruction among prisoners in all the counties of England would be highly interesting, when viewed in connexion with the proportions and increase or decrease of crime in the respective districts. The various counties of England are, therefore, arranged in a descending scale, showing the annual mean proportions of those who could neither read nor write, or else who could read only; these being classed together as persons in a state of almost total ignorance. The proportions of offences in the two classes are given, in order that the state of crime and want of instruction may stand in exact juxtaposition. The numbers making the density of population

in the different counties are given likewise, in order that a view may be furnished of the influence of scattered or dense population on crime.

Counties.	Annual Mean Proportion per cent. of Prisoners with little or no Instruction.		Counties.	Annual Mean Proportion per cent. of Prisoners with little or no Instruction.	
	Assizes and Sessions.	Summary Convictions.		Assizes and Sessions.	Summary Convictions.
Hereford	74·0	71·0	Oxford	57·8	59·8
Herts	70·8	72·0	Kent	57·1	59·6
Salop	72·2	70·9	Northampton	57·4	59·3
Essex	70·8	70·0	York	54·6	59·5
Wilts	67·0	74·9	Monmouth	58·3	61·4
Bedford	70·0	65·7	Lincoln	50·9	57·5
Cambridge	68·8	70·0	Durham	53·5	52·6
Gloucester	68·3	69·3	Notts	52·5	54·5
Worcester	70·3	70·7	Devon	57·9	48·3
Chester	66·3	63·9	Cornwall	47·9	57·5
Huntingdon	61·4	66·0	Surrey	48·2	55·6
Lancaster	62·6	65·7	Hants	51·2	52·5
Suffolk	58·2	67·8	Bucks	62·0	40·6
Derby	63·1	64·0	Sussex	47·7	54·6
Berks	55·6	67·2	Northumberland	43·9	55·5
Somerset	60·3	61·2	Middlesex	40·8	58·5
Dorset	57·3	63·3	Leicester	50·0	47·3
Norfolk	57·3	63·0	Westmoreland	42·6	50·6
Warwick	51·8	68·8			
Cumberland	61·3	56·9			
Rutland	59·3	59·4	North Wales	68·2	68·8
Stafford	59·3	61·1	South Wales	62·0	62·5

These proportionals are quite conclusive as to the defectiveness of education among the labouring classes in the various counties of England, and especially in those more strictly called agricultural counties, eleven of which head the above list in the scale of ignorance, viz., Hereford, Herts, Salop, Essex, Wilts, Bedford, Cambridge, Gloucester, Worcester, Chester (partially manufacturing), and Huntingdon. In all, however, the state of instruction among criminals is extremely low, for there are only five counties out of the whole forty in which less than 50 per cent. of all criminals in both classes were found to have little or no instruction. The second arrangement as respects crime is very different from the first, and it still remains a matter of speculation how far such an education (even if it can be so called), as is included in these returns, can be considered to have much influence upon the amount or mitigation of crime.

These proportions, however, decisive as they are respecting the mean annual amount of partial or total ignorance among the prisoners of both classes, is less interesting than the following statement respecting the increase or decrease of ignorance among criminals during the quinquennial period, and eight counties are selected in which the increase was greatest, and eight other counties in which there was either a total or partial decrease.

Counties.	Increase 1839-1843. Compared with 100,000 of the Population.		Counties.	Decrease, whole or partial, 1839-1843. Compared with 100,000 of the Population.	
	Assizes and Sessions.	Summary Convictions.		Assizes and Sessions.	Summary Convictions.
Derby	62.5	86.8	Notts	43.9	31.2
Cornwall	96.2	10.0	Berks	37.9	44.1
Warwick	79.8	23.6	Surrey	159.8	+38.1
Lancaster	10.5	8.6	Cumberland	148.0	+43.0
Worcester	27.9	32.9	Hants	102.7	+34.5
Stafford	20.7	34.9	Sussex	52.0	+ 2.1
Chester	15.3	34.8	Monmouth	26.0	+29.7
Middlesex	8.4	4.1	Wilts	12.8	+41.2

The above statements, though by no means so full as they might be, abundantly show that there is a near connexion between ignorance and crime, as well as that crime in many places co-exists with a considerable amount of what is termed plain education.

TABLE showing the State of Instruction of the Total Number of Prisoners for Trial at Assizes and Sessions, as well as those under Summary Convictions, in England and Wales, together with the Proportions which the several Classes bear to the whole, in each of the Five Years 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, and 1843.

Locality and Years.		For Trial at Assizes and Sessions.									
		Can neither Read nor Write.		Can Read only.		Can Read or Write badly.		Can Read and Write well.		State of In- struction not ascertained.	
		Number of Prisoners.	Proportion per cent. to Total Accused.	Number of Prisoners.	Proportion per cent. to Total Accused.	Number of Prisoners.	Proportion per cent. to Total Accused.	Number of Prisoners.	Proportion per cent. to Total Accused.	Number of Prisoners.	Proportion per cent. to Total Accused.
England and Wales.	1839	8,565	34.1	5,391	21.5	8,592	35.0	2,612	8.7	17	0.7
	1840	9,314	34.2	6,364	23.4	8,941	32.9	2,589	9.5	..	..
	1841	9,617	34.4	6,346	22.9	9,169	33.1	2,578	9.3	8	0.29
	1842	10,765	34.1	7,340	23.2	10,731	34.0	2,747	8.7	..	..
	1843	9,491	32.8	6,204	21.5	10,556	36.5	2,621	9.0	10	0.34
Locality and Years.		Under Summary Conviction.									
		Can neither Read nor Write.		Can Read only.		Can Read or Write badly.		Can Read and Write well.		State of In- struction not ascertained.	
		Number of Prisoners.	Proportion per cent. to Total Sum- mary Convictions.	Number of Prisoners.	Proportion per cent. to Total Sum- mary Convictions.	Number of Prisoners.	Proportion per cent. to Total Sum- mary Convictions.	Number of Prisoners.	Proportion per cent. to Total Sum- mary Convictions.	Number of Prisoners.	Proportion per cent. to Total Sum- mary Convictions.
England and Wales.	1839	23,481	40.2	11,531	19.7	19,567	33.4	2,308	3.9	1,651	2.8
	1840	26,238	30.1	13,644	20.2	21,483	32.8	2,599	4.2	1,706	2.7
	1841	36,374	40.4	13,377	20.8	21,344	32.9	2,617	4.1	1,092	1.8
	1842	28,802	39.9	15,277	21.2	23,837	33.1	2,948	4.2	1,165	1.6
	1843	29,724	40.0	15,833	21.3	25,160	33.8	2,815	3.8	783	1.1